

February 24, 2021

Ellen Wheatley, PhD., Acting Director,  
Office of Child Care  
Administration for Children and Families  
330 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Wheatley:

The Ute Indian Tribe Child Care Program has received funding in the amount of \$570, 129 from the Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We are very fortunate to have this opportunity for funding to assist our tribal nation improve child care during this pandemic. The following are areas of which we are expending funds and the plans of use that need to be obligated by September 30, 2022 and expended by September 30, 2023.

DIRECT CHILD CARE SERVICES

- We utilize the funding to pay for child care services.
- Child Care Coordinator assisted essential working families find child care when the Tribal Daycare center was closed. If a relative was signed-up did minimal training which included: First Aid/CPR, Food Handler's, Fire extinguisher training and Nutrition classes.
- Opened a classroom at the Tribal Daycare Center following CDC guidelines.

IMPLEMENTATION OF VIRUS MITIGATION POLICIES & PRACTICES

- All Tribal Daycare staff participated in webinars for Opening Child Care Centers during Pandemic
- Provided safe entrances for children by providing plexi-glass barriers, tables and sanitizing stations for children.
- Purchased sanitizers, thermometers and PPE for home providers and tribal daycare center.
- Contracted with a local agency to disinfect daycare monthly.
- Purchase of Chrome books for virtual learning for Head Start and Elementary students.
- All Home Providers were able to get 1<sup>st</sup> COVID vaccine same time as Daycare Teachers.

PLANS INCLUDE:

- Hire a worker to assist with technical issues for virtual training for Tribal Daycare Teachers and Home Providers.
- Expand our Consumer education with internet advertisement, community flyers and radio announcements.
- Hire an additional worker that can complete Disaster Plan for the Child Care Program

#### GRANTS OR ASSISTANCE (Other than Subsidies) To Stabilize Child Care Providers

- Provided continued payments to child care providers during lock-down.
- Installed internet to school-age classrooms at the tribal daycare center.
- Paid for minor renovation work at Tribal Daycare: Safe Entrance at tribal daycare and installing hallway so children would not need to enter another classroom to get to their classroom.
- Paid families copays for a portion of the year.
- Paid for Virtual Training Classes for Tribal Daycare Teachers and Home Providers.
- Pay COVID Leave for tribal daycare teachers who have been exposed or had COVID.
- Approval for extended job-searching hours for parents who lost their employment.
- Purchased dishwasher and handwashing sink for Tribal Daycare.

#### PLANS TO USE FUNDS as follows:

- Contract with cleaning company to provide disinfecting services once a month.
- Purchase a Disinfecting Machine
- Install Hands-Free Sinks in bathrooms and Kitchen
- Update to state of the art HVAC system
- Plans for removing carpet in tribal daycare classrooms and replacing with linoleum.
- Obligate funds for Construction of school-age facilities. We currently can offer services to 15 school-age children.
- Mini-Grants to Home Providers to assist them with needed equipment.
- Install heating element barriers for the Tribal Daycare playground area.
- Provide CDA Grants to parents and public of the Uintah and Ouray reservation.
- Hire a Master Teacher to assist Tribal Daycare teachers to reach goals and AA degree.
- Purchase a computerized child care management system
- Use funds to hire a linguist to train tribal daycare teachers in the Ute Language and plan a Cultural learning program

#### ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDERS NOT PARTICIPATING ON THE SUBSIDY SYSTEM PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC

- Funds to be approved to pay for Administrative Leave for Tribal Daycare Teaching staff who are unable to work due to CDC guidelines and low attendance at Tribal Daycare.
- Donations to Child Care Facilities

#### DOES THE LEAD AGENCY PLAN TO USE A PORTION OF CRRSA FUNDS for other not described above?

- Plans to use funding to pay for Retention Bonuses and CDA accreditation during Pandemic

The Ute Tribe Child Care Program will strive to meet all goals set forth in the CCDF Plan and utilize this funding to improve and meet the needs of child care children, families and providers. We will support the Ute Tribe Child Care Program to the best of our ability within the Ute Indian Tribe

Sincerely,

Luke Duncan  
Ute Tribe Business Committee Chairman